

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 29-32 are pending in the present application. Claims 26-28 were previously canceled. Claim 24 is canceled without prejudice to future prosecution. Claims 2 and 17 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found in the specification as filed at, *e.g.*, at page 21, lines 19-23 and page 21, lines 19-23, respectively.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Patent Office's indication that claims 1-23, 25 and 29-32 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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